



NEWS RELEASE

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ELLCOTT CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION AND FIREARM POSSESSION

Ellicott City, MD (August 1, 2019) – Alec Vazquez, age 21, of Old St. Johns Lane, pleaded guilty to charges of possession with intent to distribute Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and armed trafficking and was sentenced today by Howard County Circuit Court Associate Judge Mary M. Kramer to a total of 20 years suspending all but 5 years without the possibility of parole.

During a traffic stop on February 21, 2019, at approximately 9:25pm, Howard County Police found cash and THC oil, also known as “dab” in quantities indicative of distribution. THC is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Vazquez was arrested at the scene. Detectives served a search warrant at his residence in Ellicott City and found nearly 7 pounds of suspected marijuana, a loaded shotgun and assault rifle, 75 grams of suspected THC wax, more than 100 vaping cartridges filled with suspected THC and thousands of dollars in cash.

The investigation led Howard County detectives and members of the Carroll County Drug Task Force to a second address in Westminster. A search warrant revealed an additional 57 pounds of suspected marijuana, suspected hallucinogenic mushrooms, another loaded assault rifle, two additional shotguns, a large amount of ammunition and other evidence that would indicate a large-scale drug distribution operation was in place.

“Our office is focused on reducing the proliferation of drugs through effective prosecution. This case is a perfect example of how we worked collaboratively with police to dismantle an operation that spanned across two counties to hold a defendant accountable” said State’s Attorney for Howard County, Rich H. Gibson, Jr.

Assistant State’s Attorney Maurice C. Frazier prosecuted the case.

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